

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 CU-02 /033 W

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R 302127Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3447

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: NEW GOC EFFORTS TO HELP THE POOR

1. NATIONAL YOUTH SECRETARIAT IS BEGINNING A "CRUSADE OF SOLIDARITY" MAY 30 TO ASSIST SECTORS OF CHILEAN SOCIETY MOST AFFECTED BY CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS. ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT SPOKESMEN, 200,000 YOUTHS WILL BE MOBILIZED TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY, OBTAIN AND DISTRIBUTE CERTAIN BASIC FOODSTUFFS, AND DETERMINE AND FOCUS ON AREAS OF MOST URGENT NEED.

2. GOC MAY 29 ANNOUNCED A YET TO BE NAMED VICE MINISTER WOULD BE APPOINTED TO COORDINATE A GOC EFFORT TO ASSIST THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT ECONOMIC POLICIES. NEW VICE MINISTER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO INTERIOR MINISTER.

3. MAY 30 PRESS REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT PINOCHET HAS APPROVED PLANS OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES TO GIVE SUPPORT TO POOR WHILE GOC PURSUES ITS POLICY OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

4. COMMENT: GOC IS AWARE OF INCREASING HARDSHIP ITS CURRENT AUSTERITY PROGRAM IS CAUSING THE POOR, AND THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF NOT SHOWING ACTIVE CONCERN WHILE CHURCHES AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE WORKING HARD TO ASSIST THE NEEDY. THIS NEW EMPHASIS ON SOCIAL EFFECTS OF GOC ECONOMIC POLICY IS PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO COUNTERACT GROWING CRITICISM OF GOC

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FOR LACK OF SENSITIVITY TOWARDS DIFFICULT SITUATION OF THE POOR.

5. THE YOUTH SECRETARIAT IS MOBILIZING ITS FORCES WITH THE OBVIOUS BLESSING OF GOC. VIGOROUS SOLICITATION OF FUNDS AND FOODSTUFFS WOULD CREATE FRICTION WITH BUSINESS COMMUNITY, WHO ARE ALSO FEELING EFFECTS OF CURRENT POLICIES, AND BRING SECRETARIAT INTO COMPETITION WITH CHURCH.

6. NEW STUDENT "CRUSADE" MAY ALSO BE PART OF THE SECRETARIAT'S RESPONSE TO "MOVIMIENTO DE UNIDAD NACIONAL" (MUN), WHICH YOUTH LEADERS HAVE REFUSED TO JOIN (SANTIAGO 3044).
POPPER

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